



The Old Ironsides Report

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101st Commander awards medals to 3rd Brigade soldiers

Story and photo by SPC John S. Wollaston, 3rd Brigade PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The last time the 70th Armored Regiment and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) were together in combat, 101st commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, had just told the German Army “Nuts!” to their demand he surrender the city of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

The 70th Armored Regiment was racing to relieve the embattled 101st.

Fifty-nine years later, the 101st Airborne Division and the 70th Armored Regiment, in the form of 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored, teamed up again during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To show his appreciation for their efforts in support of his division during the operation, Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division awarded nearly 50 medals ranging from Bronze Stars with “V” devices to Army Commendation Medals with “V” devices, and a Purple Heart to the soldiers of the Thunderbolt Battalion during a ceremony at 2-70th’s Baghdad headquarters last week.



Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, pins a Bronze Star with “V” Device for Valor on Staff Sgt. Chris Kohunsky 2nd Battalion 70th Armored Regiment.

Referring to them as his “Air Assault Tank Battalion,” Petraeus had nothing but high praise for the tankers.

“You all know that 2-70th Armored has an incredible record on the battlefield,” he said. “And you added a great, great chapter to that history fighting with the 101st in Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Throughout the ground war phase of the operation, 2-70th Armored fought with all three brigades of the Screaming Eagles.

“You fired the first direct fire round for us that blew a hole in the wall at the Agricultural College in Najaf that allowed our infantry battalion to go in and start clearing the city,” Petraeus said.

“You fired the shots up around Karbala that finally cracked that stronghold and you also defeated the Republican Guard when they were still coherent, cohesive and organized as a combined arms team. You kept running and reported ‘operational ready’ even when your road wheels were falling off,” he said.

“Your heroism truly brings a lump to my throat as I think about what you did in all those battles.”

In addition to the awards, Maj. Gen. Petraeus presented the battalion commander and battalion command sergeant major with ceremonial 101st “Screaming Eagle” combat patches.



Lt. Col. Curtis A. Anderson Jr., assumes command of the 501st Forward Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Antonio S. Coleman during a ceremony at the Iraqi Olympic Stadium Saturday. “Achievement is accomplished through teamwork,” Anderson said. “We will continue to provide nothing short of the best support to the ‘Ready First’ Brigade and the division.” Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

NEWS

3 Groups Agree to End Attacks on Israel

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - Three major Palestinian groups declared a temporary cease-fire Sunday after 33 months of violence, and Israel pulled out of part of the Gaza Strip - breakthroughs in the U.S.-backed bid for peace. The militant Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups announced a joint three-month cease-fire, while Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction declared a six-month truce.

Study: Emergency Responders Unprepared

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nearly two years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States remains "dangerously unprepared" to handle another catastrophic attack, according to a study by the Council on Foreign Relations.

The government says it already has done some of what the council suggested and is working on other recommendations.

Actress Katharine Hepburn Dies at 96

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. (AP) - Katharine Hepburn, an icon of feminist strength and spirit who brought a chiseled beauty and patrician bearing to such films as "The Philadelphia Story" and "The African Queen," died Sunday, her executor and town authorities said.

She was 96. She had been in declining health in recent years.

Town authorities and the executor of Hepburn's estate, Cynthia McFadden, said Hepburn died Sunday at 2:50 p.m. at her home in Old Saybrook.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

When fate hands us a lemon, let's try to make lemonade.

--Dale Carnegie

Good fortune is built on misfortune. By losing a race we learn what mistakes to avoid next time we run. A burglar may make us install the lock that will keep out a murderer. Each time a toddler falls is a lesson in how to walk.

We can never assume that, because things are not going the way we want, they are not following a better plan. God is a better manager than we can hope to be. If things aren't shaping up the way we like, let's wait with curiosity to see that better things are in store for us. Let's look for lights in the darkness and follow them to the bright day that always will follow.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15

SPORTS

Agassi Charges Into Wimbledon's 2nd Week

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Based on the first three rounds, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick look to be headed for a showdown in the Wimbledon final, and what a matchup that would be: one 33, the other 20; one the game's top returner, the other its top server right now. When play resumes Monday after the traditional middle Sunday off, they will have to get past a couple of big hitters to reach the quarterfinals.

U.S. Senior Open -- Final Round Complete

	Name	Score
1	Bruce Lietzke	-7
2	Tom Watson	-5
3	Vicente Fernandez	-4
4	Allen Doyle	+1
4	Fuzzy Zoeller	+1
6	Wayne Levi	+3
6	Mike McCullough	+3
8	Andy North	+4
8	Lanny Wadkins	+4
10	Tom Jenkins	+5
10	Craig Stadler	+5

And in other news...

Letterman ends Friday summer breaks

NEW YORK (AP) — David Letterman is going back on the air Fridays. After a month of the veteran "Late Show" host turning Friday nights over to guest hosts, Jimmy Fallon's stint Friday was going to be the last, spokesman Tom Keaney said.

Tom Green, Tom Arnold and Kelsey Grammer had also filled in for Letterman.

"I've worked since I was 11 years old," Letterman, 56, had said on his CBS show. "And I just feel like it's summer now, I'd like to take a day off."

Oddly, Letterman didn't even get a day off. He usually tapes his Friday shows on Thursday evenings, after taping Thursday's show; so he just left work early during this stretch.

Although ratings in the summer aren't watched as closely as those during the regular TV season, "Tonight" host Jay Leno's lead over Letterman has increased in the past month.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 109F

Low: 75F

